

NEWS LETTER
OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA

No. 25

Dec., 1952

Announcement of the
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY
at
SALEM COLLEGE

January 10, 1953

The 1952 Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina will be held at Salem College, Winston-Salem on Saturday, January 10, 1953.

PROGRAM

- 10:30 A.M. Registration of members and guests, exhibitions of collections.
- 11:00 A.M. Business session.
- 11:30 A.M. Papers:
- "Field Work - Bugg's Island Reservoir"
John E. Heilmick, Chapel Hill
- "Renewing the Archaeological Survey of North Carolina"
Ernest Lewis, Mt. Gilead
- "Archaeology of the Badin Area"
H. M. Doerschuk
- "Archaeological Surprises"
Dr. Douglas L. Rights
- 1:00 P.M. Informal luncheon at Salem College. \$1.00 per plate.
- 2:00 P.M. Inspection of collections in the Wachovia Museum.

Note: State Geologist, Dr. J. L. Stuckey, has been invited to attend and assist members in identifying stone specimens,

President: Joffre L. Coe, Box 561, Chapel Hill
Vice-President: Otto L. Giersch, 2710 Briarcliff Place, Charlotte
Secretary-Treasurer: Harry T. Davis, State Museum, Raleigh
Editor: Ernest Lewis, Town Creek Indian Mound, Mt. Gilead

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

FIELD MEETING OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA, Town Creek Indian Mound, Mt. Gilead, N. C., July 27, 1952. This informal meeting and picnic was attended by over fifty members and guests. For the occasion the temporary field museum exhibits were changed and enlarged, a burial was worked out to be viewed in situ, the results of a recent surface collection were arranged according to the types of material found, and workers demonstrated the technique of troweling a square to reveal the pattern of postmolds and pits. For the meeting itself, logs were arranged as seats in a simulated Creek Indian Square Ground pattern, and the Park issued an Information Bulletin which told the meaning of this arrangement.

The meeting was called to order by President Joffre L. Coe. He presented a review of the events leading up to the acquisition of the Indian Mound property and the early work done at the Mound. Secretary-Treasurer Harry Davis related his recollections of the generosity of the late Mr. L. D. Frutchey in deeding the Mound to the State in 1937. An explanation of the Square Ground and its place in Creek ethnology was rendered by Mr. John Witthoft, Anthropologist for the State of Pennsylvania. The current excavations and the restoration units to result from this work were the subject of a talk by Ernest Lewis, supervisor of the work, and Mr. W. W. McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent of State Parks told of the support which this archaeological site and other important sites may expect to receive in the future from the Division of State Parks. Mr. John E. Heilmick told of the results of the first month's work on the Bugg's Island Reservoir Archaeological Society.

After the meeting members continued renewing old acquaintances, examined the various exhibits, told of sites they had found, and exhibited portions of their own collections.

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE, Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, Ga., Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 1952. This important meeting was attended by two Tar Heel archaeologists. Joffre Coe motored down from Ann Arbor with Dr. James B. Griffin and other University of Michigan archaeologists, and Ernest Lewis went from Town Creek Indian Mound. During the first session Mr. Coe gave an illustrated talk on the excavations at our very important deep site on the Upper Pee Dee River in Montgomery County. Material found at deep levels in this site established the presence of Indians in this area at a very early date. Of even greater interest is the fact that flood deposited sand so stratifies the site that complete archaeological complexes are isolated with a clarity seldom realized in archaeological work. Most of the remaining sessions were devoted to discussions of historic Indian tribes and their relationships to various known archaeological sites. Mr. Coe's invitation to the Conference to hold its 1953 meeting in Chapel Hill was accepted. Mr. Coe was made Chairman for that meeting, with Mr. Lewis as Secretary.

It is interesting to note that almost all of the well-known archaeologists attending this Conference subscribe to SOUTHERN INDIAN STUDIES, the journal published by our Society. Several new subscriptions were sold to persons who wished to obtain our latest issue, on "Pamunkey Pottery-Making".

Several old friends of the Society were present, including T. M. N. Lewis of the University of Tennessee, who addressed the Society at meetings in previous years, and Robert Wauchope, who at one time was Editor for the Society and is now head of the Middle American Research Institute at Tulane University in New Orleans.

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LAB NOTES

During the current academic year Mr. Joffre L. Coe, Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of North Carolina, is in residence at the University of Michigan where he is doing advanced graduate work. Mrs. Coe and their two sons are with him in Ann Arbor.

Replacing Mr. Coe for the year is Mr. John E. Heilmick, from the University

of Michigan. He and his wife and three children recently made a trip through parts of Mexico and the western United States, visiting archaeological sites and Indian tribes. During the summer Mr. Heilmick directed the Archaeological Survey of the Bugg's Island Reservoir area. This quarter he is teaching a course in Introductory Anthropology at the University. His wife and children are with him in Chapel Hill.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

The Editor of the News Letter asks that members of the Society report their field trips to him for publication in this column. A News Letter cannot survive without news.

BERTIE AND CHOWAN COUNTIES

At the time of the summer field meeting Miss Harriet B. Leary, of Edenton, told several interested persons about a mound or midden in Bertie County, on the bluffs of the Chowan River. The highway department had removed part of the deposit and Miss Leary had asked them to delay further destruction until she could have some qualified person look at it. On August 26 Harry Davis, Director of the State Museum in Raleigh, and Ernest Lewis were guided to the site by Miss Leary. The place appears to be a natural prominence along the river, with extensive shell and ash deposits in it. Two fire pits were excavated, specimens of the various shell species were saved and considerable amounts of pottery were collected, both in the pits and through surface collections. In addition Miss Leary donated to the Laboratory many archaeological specimens previously recovered from the site, and is to be commended for the intelligent action she took in regard to this site.

Later the same day Davis and Lewis went to "Bandon Plantation", owned by John and Inglis Fletcher. Here on the east bluffs of the Chowan River they visited the site from which Mr. Fletcher reports the recovery of an exceptionally massive Indian jaw. Sherds can be recovered from the open face of the site where they are being washed out by erosion from an eighteen inch thick shell midden. On the surface of the midden wind-blown sand and vegetation have formed a thin humus covering over the midden itself. There is evidence of considerable pitting and in several places they found small piles of pottery which had been dug up and abandoned.

The following day they visited the site at Colerain Beach which was reported on in the July, 1952 News Letter. Here they spoke to Mr. F. P. Hill, owner of the land and operator of the bulldozer which revealed the burials which Dr. Crittenden removed to the State Museum. They collected several sherds from the open face of the bluff and observed several pits intrusive into the high bluff from the upper surface. Mr. Hill dug into one of these pits and several animal bones, teeth, and potsherds were salvaged.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Mr. H. M. Doerschuk has continued his archaeological explorations in the Badin area and reports a new extensive site on an island in the lake behind one of the dams on the Yadkin River. He will probably tell us about this find at the January 10 meeting in Winston-Salem.

Site surveys carried on by personnel at Town Creek Indian Mound are continuing and we now have over fifty sites in the Southwest corner of the County.

RICHMOND COUNTY

Two brothers, Thurman and James Coward, of Rockingham recently reported several sites in their County and guided Ernest Lewis to them. Collections were made and the sites were recorded on an aerial photograph and on the Highway County Index map. The Cowards have coordinated their site numbers with our Laboratory's numbers for Richmond County sites and keep their collections separated according to these site numbers, as well as marking site locations on the County Index map.

MOUND NOTES

Those members who have followed developments at Town Creek Indian Mound through the years will be interested in knowing that the Division of State Parks of the Department of Conservation and Development is requesting the coming Legislature to appropriate funds for the building of a permanent museum, a shop and maintenance building, and ranger's residence. An additional sum is being asked for archaeological excavation, research and restoration, and an increase is sought in the regular operating budget. If these needs are met our long dream of a completely excavated, restored, and interpreted site will come much closer to reality.

Recent work at the Mound reveals that the area midway between the mound and the present river bank was very probably an area given over to ceremonial feasting. We are finding more animal refuse here than in any other portion of the site, in the numerous garbage pits and fire pits. This phenomenon occurs in precisely the area where such feasting should be expected on the basis of Creek ethnology. In addition, the area contains no human burials and is demarked on its eastern boundary by a north-south stockade wall, forty feet of which has been traced to date. Numerous small postmolds in the area indicate that we should be able to establish the patterns of other structures in the area, possibly the "Square Ground Cabins" mentioned in the literature.

Restoration work has proceeded whenever archaeologically and financially possible, the most recent unit receiving this treatment being one of the fortified entrances in the main stockade. At this point the regular stockade postmolds were interrupted by a large circle of bigger postmolds. Through a synthesis of this archaeological ground plan and the material available in early accounts relative to such towers we have completed the first stage in the restoration of this feature.

All members are urged to visit this project and to support the requests for increased funds.

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PUBLICATIONS

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES, Edited by James B. Griffin, University of Chicago Press, 640 pp., 205 drawings and photographs, \$10.00. This long-awaited symposium on the prehistory of the area east of the Rockies contains 29 chapters by 27 distinguished American Archaeologists, covering everything from Indian physical types up to the latest radiocarbon dates. Of greatest interest to Tar Heels will be the chapter by Joffre Coe, entitled "The Cultural Sequence of the Carolina Piedmont", with five plates illustrating many kinds of specimens found in the State. The many illustrations used in the book offer the collector an invaluable reference for making comparisons between his specimens and material found in other States. This volume is a must for both the professional and lay student of the American Indian.

HIWASSEE ISLAND, Thomas M. N. Lewis and Madeline Kneberg, University of Tennessee Press, 186 text pages, 155 plates, figures and maps, \$5.50. Two years of large-scale excavation furnished the data for this account of four prehistoric peoples who successively inhabited a large island in the Tennessee River, a cultural development related to that of the entire southeastern United States. Mr. Lewis writes in a recent letter that members of the Society may obtain this book at the special price of \$4.40, postpaid, by writing to the University of Tennessee Press in Knoxville.

SPACE AND TIME PERSPECTIVE IN NORTHERN ST. JOHNS ARCHAEOLOGY, FLORIDA, John M. Goggin, Yale University Publications in Anthropology No. 47, Yale University Press, 147 pp. 12 plates, 9 figures, map, \$2.00. The very difficult job of synthesizing a great mass of material collected by both professional and lay archaeologists from hundreds of sites has been masterfully accomplished in this work by Dr. Goggin.